



**To the Campus Community**

**Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D., President** to: Torre,F.Jason

10/29/2009 12:00 PM

Please respond to clondoiro

---

To All Faculty, Staff and Students,

As many of you are aware, the University, including parts of East, West, and South campus, have experienced several power outages and the loss of heat and hot water over the past several days, resulting in many buildings being affected. We believe these outages were caused by the structural failure of an underground hot water pipe which probably led to the failure of nearby high voltage feeder cables causing the loss of electrical power.

I want you to know that I am very aware of the significant disruption that these outages cause to faculty, students, and staff. And I realize that this is particularly frustrating because this is not the first time that we have been confronted with this kind of outage. Unfortunately, in some sense we are seeing the legacy of under funding of preventive maintenance due to the long term financial shortages SUNY as a system, and Stony Brook as a University have faced. Infrastructure elements rated for 20 years, but called into service for 50 are beginning to fail, and these are the consequences. To add to our problems, I am concerned that this new series of budget cuts will make it even more difficult to deal with these kind of emergencies in the future, both by reducing further monies available for preventive maintenance and for emergency response support staff. On Tuesday, I testified before a special session of the New York State Senate Finance Committee about the impact of the Governor's Deficit Reduction Plan on Stony Brook University, and during that testimony spoke specifically about this issue, and our recent power shortages. I hope they were listening.

One thing that has been constant is the incredibly hard work put in by our facilities people in responding to these crises. We essentially have had all hands on deck to work to restore power and hot water to each facility as rapidly as possible. I greatly appreciate their efforts.

I want to thank everyone who has been inconvenienced by these outages for their patience in dealing with this difficult and frustrating situation. Moving forward, we need to continue to work together to try and obtain the resources to implement the kind of preventive maintenance strategy that could greatly decrease the frequency and impact of these kinds of failures in the future.

Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D.  
President